

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 11 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 14, respectively, and claims 5 and 14 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. In addition, claim 6 is amended to depend from claim 1. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 18, 2008 and return to Applicants' undersigned representatives a fully initialed Form PTO-1449.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5-7 and 14 recite allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if amended to incorporate the features of the base claims and any intervening claim. Because independent claims 1 and 11 now incorporate the allowable features of claims 5 and 14, respectively, Applicants submit that all claims are allowable.

The Office Action objects to claim 14 due to an informality. The objection of canceled claim 14 is moot.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Gruenwald et al. (Gruenwald), U.S. Patent No. 6,651,759. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, independent claims 1 and 11 now incorporate the allowable features of claims 5 and 14, respectively. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 and dependent claims 2-4, 8-10, 12 and 13 are patentable over Gruenwald. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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